

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 28. (canceled).

29. (currently amended): An image processing apparatus connected to a color printer and a monochromatic printer, said image processing apparatus comprising:

a discrimination ~~means for discriminating~~ unit that discriminates whether each page in a print job consisting of a plurality of pages is a color page or a monochromatic page;

a determination ~~means for determining~~ unit that determines whether each page in the print job is to be output to the color printer or to the monochromatic printer, based on a discrimination made by said discrimination ~~means~~ unit;

an output ~~means for outputting~~ unit that outputs print data of each page selectively to the color printer or to the monochromatic printer based on a determination made by said determination ~~means~~ unit;

an obtaining unit that obtains ejection function information about an ejection function provided in the color printer and in the monochromatic printer;
and

an adding ~~means for adding~~ unit that adds, to the print data output by said output ~~means~~ unit, an ejection command, based on the ejection function information obtained by said obtaining unit, according to the color or monochromatic printer such that

an ejection position is changed in an ejection manner according to the ejection function provided in the color printer and in the monochromatic printer when a succeeding page is not serial to the previously outputted page, ~~based on the ejection command added by said adding means.~~

30. - 32. (canceled).

33. (currently amended): An image processing method for use in an image processing apparatus that is connected to a color printer and a monochromatic printer, said method comprising the steps of:

a discriminating step for discriminating whether each page in a print job consisting of a plurality of pages is a color page or a monochromatic page;

a determination step for determining whether each page in the print job is to be output to the color printer or to the monochromatic printer, based on a discrimination made in said discriminating step;

an output step for outputting print data of each page selectively to the color printer or to the monochromatic printer based on a determination made in said determination step;

an obtaining step for obtaining ejection function information about an ejection function provided in the color printer and in the monochromatic printer; and

an adding step for adding, to the print data output in said output step, an ejection command, based on the ejection function information obtained in said obtaining step, ~~according to the color or monochromatic printer~~ such that an ejection position is

changed in an ejection manner according to the ejection function provided in the color printer and in the monochromatic printer when a succeeding page is not serial to the previously outputted page, ~~based on the ejection command added in said adding step.~~

34. (currently amended): An image processing apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the ejection command added by said adding ~~means~~ unit is a command for shifting the ejection position from one position in a tray to a second position in that same tray.

35. (currently amended): An image processing apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the ejection command added by said adding ~~means~~ unit is a command for ejection to another bin.

36. (previously presented): An image processing method according to claim 33, wherein the ejection command added in said adding step is a command for shifting the ejection position from one position in a tray to a second position in that same tray.

37. (previously presented): An image processing method according to claim 33, wherein the ejection command added in said adding step is a command for ejection to another bin.